

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 20 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Use of Flaming Petroleum in Rumanian
Defense Maneuvers

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In April and May, 1948, defense maneuvers against an amphibious invasion were held on the Rumanian Black Sea coast (exact location unknown).
 - a. The principal means of defense experimented with at one beach was the use of flaming petroleum products to prevent the enemy from landing. The technical plan was supervised by General Nicolae Cambrea, who laid special stress on similar British plans during World War II to counter possible German invasion of Britain.
 - b. From experimental installations erected for several kilometers among the beach, the chief method was the spread of petroleum on the water through the gravity flow method - oil pumped into a trench network which carried it to the water, where it was ignited by incendiary bullets.
 2. In the September, 1948, maneuvers near the town of Voila (near the north bank of the Oltul river, almost due north from Fagaras, the main problem was the defense of the north bank of the Oltul river against an attempted crossing by an enemy moving north and west from Brasov.
 - a. In addition to two regiments, primarily infantry, there were small numbers of artillery and armored vehicles, and several small units of engineers and chemical warfare troops. Fighter aviation (number, types unknown) was based at Porumbacul de Jos, a small town on the Brasov-Sibiu highway.
 - b. Defense methods similar to those described in subparagraph (b) above were used. A variation included the use of small floating containers, pentagonal, hexagonal or octagonal in shape (see diagram below) which, filled with petroleum, were launched on the defender's side of the river, ignited by incendiary bullets, and allowed to float down stream.

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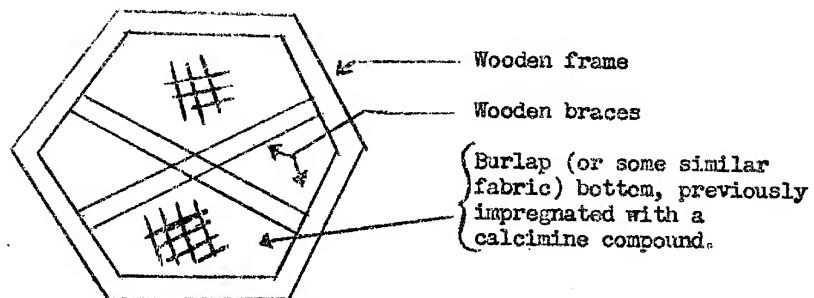
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The container is filled with the following petroleum mixture:

50 percent Oil Residue (Primary residue after cracking)
30 percent Gasoline (approximately 60 octane)
20 percent Diesel Oil

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